



Tax Season Arrives

Tax season has once again arrived, and military personnel should review new changes, which may make returns easier and more beneficial.

Relevant changes to the tax code include: provisions for victims of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma; tax exempt status of income for certain deployed service members in qualifying combat zones; and automatic filing extensions for certain service members in qualifying combat zones.

There are several venues in which to file. Almost every military installation offers a tax center for military, retired military and family members. The IRS provides a Free File service on its Web site, which lists several tax preparation services, many of which provide free service to military members. The Web site Military OneSource also provides free tax assistance to military members.

When service members are preparing to file taxes, they should make sure they have any W-2 forms from the military and any other jobs they had in the past year and have Social Security cards for themselves and their dependents.

For active-duty military members, W-2s will be available on MyPay starting Jan. 21. Retirees and Reservists already have the forms available.

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